

# Individual Decision

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<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>Newbury Parking Strategy Zone C1</b>		
<b>Report to be considered by:</b>	<b>Councillor Keith Chopping</b>	<b>on:</b>	<b>30<sup>th</sup> March 2007</b>
<b>Forward Plan Ref:</b>	ID1326		

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## **Purpose of Report:**

To inform the Executive Member for Planning and Highways of the responses received during the statutory and public consultation on revised proposals, associated with the prohibition and restriction of waiting, one way traffic and prohibition of driving restrictions within Zone C1 of the Newbury Parking Strategy and to seek approval of officer recommendations.

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## **Recommended Action:**

That the Executive Member resolves to approve the recommendations as set out in section 4 of this report.

## **Reason for decision to be taken:**

To enable Zone C1 of the Newbury On Street Parking Strategy to be progressed to implementation.

## **List of other options considered:**

Not applicable

## **Key background documentation:**

- Final scheme plan No. 81156/C1/001
- Residents Parking Policy and Guidance report dated 12 August 2004.

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## Supporting Information

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### 1. Background

- 1.1 The Newbury On Street Parking Strategy encompasses the Town Centre of Newbury and its immediate environs. Due to the size of the area to be addressed it has been divided into nine 'zones'. Five of the Zones have now been treated, with the three northern Zones (NE1, NW1 and N1) programmed for treatment in the early part of 2007/08.
- 1.2 The area covered by Zone C1 includes the roads within the pedestrian priority area of Newbury town centre. The parking restrictions within this pedestrian priority area were treated as an integral part of the environmental enhancement scheme and became operational on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2006 following decision made in ID1335 and were therefore not included within this consultation.
- 1.3 The overall Parking Strategy concept is to make best use of available road space for parking, balancing wherever possible the needs of residents, commuters, workers, shoppers and visitors.
- 1.4 Statutory consultation and advertisement on the proposals was undertaken between 11<sup>th</sup> January and 1<sup>st</sup> February 2007.

### 2. Responses to statutory consultation

- 2.1 At the end of the statutory consultation and advertisement period a total of ten responses had been received. Of these, one made general comments regarding the provision for cyclists in the town centre area but did not indicate for or against, one indicated support for the proposals and eight respondents were opposed to the proposals. One of the letters of objection was from the post office workers at the Royal Mail distribution depot located on Bear Lane and included a petition against the proposed changes containing 62 signatures.
- 2.2 During the consultation period a number of the businesses located in Northbrook Street and The Broadway requested a meeting to discuss their concerns with the proposals. During these on-site discussions it was agreed to consider an amendment to the proposals by relaxing a part of the existing prohibition of waiting restrictions and to introduce a form of limited waiting restriction so that additional car parking could be created for shoppers in this area of town. As a result it was decided that there was no requirement to amend the location of the Northbrook Street taxi ranks. The businesses were satisfied with the proposed amendment to the Order and therefore did not formally object during the consultation period.
- 2.3 Following the consultation period, a meeting was held with the residents of Northcroft Lane and Northcroft Terrace who had objected to the proposal to remove a length of unrestricted parking at the entrance to Bewicks Reach. The meeting was also attended by Councillor Roger Hunneman. Whilst the residents appreciated the need to introduce parking restrictions to address road safety concerns, they indicated that the remaining length of unrestricted parking would be insufficient for their needs. It was recommended to introduce a form of limited waiting restriction, with an exemption for 'permit' holders on this length of unrestricted road. This will require a separate Traffic Regulation Order to be processed as it cannot be treated as part of this proposal. Three of the objectors from this area subsequently formally withdrew their objection as a result of these proposed changes.
- 2.4 A meeting was also held with the post office workers. Amendments to the proposals were discussed which addressed the majority of their concerns and the two objections submitted, including the petition from the post office workers, were subsequently formally withdrawn.

2.5 A summary of the comments received to the statutory consultation, together with officer comments, is provided in Appendix A to this report.

### **3. Conclusion**

3.1 There has been a relatively low response to the consultation. Of the 8 objections 5 have been withdrawn. The 3 remaining objections are from residents of the Northcroft Lane/Northcroft Terrace area and it is considered that their objections may be addressed following the proposed amendments that were agreed at the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2007 between council officers, Councillor Roger Hunneman and local residents.

3.2 The following adjustments will address most of the comments received during the consultation period and can be incorporated within the scheme without the need for re-advertisement. These adjustments are:

- (1) Kings Road West – introduce limited waiting in only 8 of the 26 available parking bays so that the concerns of the post office workers are addressed and the needs of the limited number of local residents are also considered.
- (2) Northbrook Street/The Broadway (west side) – Converting the prohibition of waiting to the north of Albert Road up to the bus stop and south of Albert Road to the build out, to a goods vehicle loading bay between 7am and 10am and a 1 hour limited waiting restriction between 10am and 6pm. This will provide a formal servicing bay for local businesses, additional short term parking space for shoppers and the taxi ranks on both sides of Northbrook Street can therefore remain in their present location.
- (3) Northcroft Lane – Adjust the length of junction protection at Bewicks Reach to the minimum to achieve a road safety improvement and not impact too severely on the length of available unrestricted parking. This would better accommodate the wishes of a number of residents in favour of the scheme.

3.3 Requests resulting in a relaxation of waiting restriction proposals, or repositioning of residents parking and limited waiting restrictions can be accommodated by schedule amendments prior to sealing of the Traffic Regulation Order without the need for re-advertisement as the scheme objectives are not compromised.

3.4 The properties on the roads within Zone C1 are primarily associated with businesses. The majority of residential properties located within the Zone have off-road parking available to them and it is not proposed to significantly amend the existing restrictions in these residential areas that would affect these residents. The proposals will therefore mainly benefit local businesses. It is hoped that these measures will provide some additional short term parking that will encourage shoppers to use businesses on the periphery of the central pedestrianised area of Newbury.

### **4. Recommendations**

4.1 It is recommended that the proposed restrictions be introduced as advertised, with the amendments detailed in section 3 of this report.

4.2 That the objectors be informed accordingly.

## Appendices

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Appendix A – Summary of the responses received during the statutory and public consultation, with officer comments.

## Implications

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<b>Policy:</b>	The consultation is in accordance with the Council's Consultation procedures.
<b>Financial:</b>	The implementation of the physical works will be funded from the approved Capital Programme. The costs of the Statutory Consultation and Traffic Regulation Order processes are funded from the Capital Programme.
<b>Personnel:</b>	None arising from this report.
<b>Legal:</b>	The sealing of the Traffic Regulation Order will be undertaken by Legal Services.
<b>Environmental:</b>	The proposals make best use of available road space for parking, balancing wherever possible the needs of residents, commuters, workers, shoppers and visitors. Consequently they provide environmental benefits for residents of the area.
<b>Equalities:</b>	None arising from this report
<b>Partnering:</b>	The Council is working in partnership with the Police to ensure that the project operates as it should.
<b>Property:</b>	None arising from this report.
<b>Risk Management:</b>	None arising from this report.
<b>Community Safety:</b>	None arising from this report.

## Consultation Responses

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### Members:

<b>Leader of Council:</b>	Councillor Graham Jones is happy with the recommended action provided that the ward members support the proposals.
<b>Overview &amp; Scrutiny Commission Chairman:</b>	Councillor Jeff Brooks is happy with the recommended action provided that the ward members support the proposals.
<b>Policy Development Commission Chairman:</b>	N/A
<b>Ward Members:</b>	Councillors Roger Hunneman and Susan Farrant are happy to support the recommended action.  No response received from Councillor Tony Vickers by the end of consultation period. Any subsequent comments will be verbally reported when the decision is made.

**Opposition Spokesperson:** No response received from Councillor Keith Woodhams by the end of consultation period. Any subsequent comments will be verbally reported when the decision is made.

**Local Stakeholders:** Have been consulted as part of the public and statutory consultation process.

**Officers Consulted:** Mark Edwards, Mark Cole, Andrew Garratt.

**Trade Union:** Not applicable.

<b>Is this item subject to call-in.</b>	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>
If not subject to call-in please put a cross in the appropriate box:		
The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval		<input type="checkbox"/>
Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council		<input type="checkbox"/>
Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position		<input type="checkbox"/>
Considered or reviewed by OSC or associated Task Groups within preceding 6 months		<input type="checkbox"/>
Item is Urgent Key Decision		<input type="checkbox"/>

No. of Comments	Comments	Officer Comments
63	<p>Petition from post office workers at the Royal Mail depot on Bear Lane containing 62 signatures and one individual letter from Royal Mail worker, objecting to the removal of unrestricted parking in Kings Road West.</p>	<p>A meeting was held with the Depot manager and some key staff. The parking bays on Kings Road West are currently unrestricted and are used for long term parking, primarily by PO workers. The proposed restrictions introduced a 4 hour restriction which came into operation from 8am, with exemption for permit holders. This restriction took account of the needs of local workers, provided some on-street parking for the small number of local residents following the removal of parking from Market Place and also ensured some turnover of parking for the benefit of local businesses.</p> <p>It was recommended to limit the changes to 8 parking spaces in Kings Road West, with the remaining 18 spaces being unrestricted. All objections were withdrawn subject to these agreed changes.</p>
6	<p>Concern about the introduction of a waiting prohibition across the Bewicks Reach entrance, which would remove some of the available unrestricted parking on Northcroft Lane. This is considered the only available space for residents of Northcroft Terrace in particular and some Northcroft Lane residents who have no off-road parking facilities.</p>	<p>Following a meeting with approximately 15 local residents, organised by Councillor Roger Hunneman, it was agreed to reduce the length of junction protection at the entrance so that adequate visibility splays could be achieved for exiting vehicles, which would result in the removal of approximately 3 car parking spaces.</p> <p>It was agreed to introduce additional restrictions so that this reduced length of unrestricted parking could accommodate 'permit' parking. These proposals will have to be submitted as a separate Traffic Regulation Order and will be subject to statutory consultation procedures. As a result of this meeting and the agreed changes 3 of the objections were subsequently withdrawn. All of the residents who attended the meeting agreed with the changes proposed by officers.</p>

## Summary of comments to Statutory Consultation

## Appendix A

<b>No. of Comments</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Officer Comments</b>
1	There should be exemption from the one way restrictions on a number of roads in the area for cyclists.	Councillor Vickers has discussed the proposed cyclist contra-flow with Transport Policy and an agreement has been made in principle that the suggestions could proceed in due course. There could be issues regarding marking the carriageway in the environmentally enhanced area of Newbury town centre, however the matter will not be addressed as part of the Newbury On Street Parking Strategy.
1	Comment from a Northcroft Lane resident in support of the proposals	None